

FURTHER NOTES ON AUSTRALIAN COLEOPTERA, WITH DESCRIPTION OF NEW GENERA AND SPECIES.

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XXIV.

PALPICORNES.

NEOHYDROBIUS (gen. nov. *Hydrobiidarum*).

Mentum antice emarginatum; palpi graciles, labialibus brevibus, maxillaribus valde elongatis (quam caput prothoraxque conjuncti haud brevioribus), articulis ultimis 3 gradatim brevioribus; mandibulæ ad apicem bifidæ; labrum transversum antice late subemarginatum; clypeus antice emarginatus; oculi modici minus convexi; antennæ 9-articulatæ (articulis 1° magno, 2° sat elongato, 3°-5° brevibus, 6° majori 7^{mm} amplectenti, 7°-9° clavam formantibus); prothorax transversus; scutellum modicum triangulare; elytra ovalia nullo modo striata; pedes modici; tibiæ ad apicem bicalcaratæ, tibiæ anticarum calcaribus permagnis; tarsi modici; unguiculi maris antiqui inæquales valde arcuati et subtus ad basin lamina muniti; mesosternum postice carina brevi armatum.

Type (*Philhydrus*) *burrundiensis*. Blackb.

Since I described this insect (Proc. L. S., N.S.W., 1889, p. 447) I have obtained more specimens, including the male, and I find that its tarsal characters,—together with some other characters noted above,—are inconsistent with a place in *Philhydrus*. The original specimens were taken in the Northern Territory, but those received later are from N. Queensland.

PSEUDOHYDROBIUS (vide infra).

The remarkable insect for which I propose this name and which I have placed below (at the end of the *Palpicornes*), might on account of its tarsal characters be considered more naturally placed near *Neohydrobius*. It is therefore well to mention it in both places.

BEROSUS.

The known Australian species of this genus are now so numerous that it seems desirable to place a statement of their characters in a tabular form. I am doubtful whether the species

might not justifiably be divided into two genera, but as in that case the genera would both have to be regarded as distinct from *Berosus*, and as moreover they both completely resemble *Berosus* superficially I prefer to avoid the creation of these new genera. In the first of these groups the elytral sculpture resembles that of the European *B. affinis*, Brul., in having a short stria (not nearly reaching the middle of the elytra) between the 1st and 2nd complete striae, but the structure of the mesosternum is quite different from that of *B. affinis* that segment being traversed merely by a fine elevated longitudinal line; while in the second group the stria between the 1st and 2nd complete striae reaches more or less beyond the middle of the length of the elytra, but the mesosternal structure is identical with that of the European *B. affinis*.

I think I have before me examples of all the described Australian *Berosi* except *B. approximans*, Fairm., which is a very small species (Long., $1\frac{1}{2}$ l.) from Queensland of which the most notable character appears to be that the interstices of the elytral striae are transversely wrinkled; it is possibly identical with *B. (Hygrotrophus) involutus*, MacL. Of the described species, however, one (*B. pallidulus*, Fairm.) seems to be identical with *Hygrotrophus nutans*, MacL., and therefore if *Hygrotrophus* is to stand (as I think it may) must be removed from *Berosus*. On the other hand *Hygrotrophus involutus*, MacL., as noted below seems to me to appertain to *Berosus*, and when these corrections have been made and two new species (described below) added there are 18 names that have been applied to Australian *Berosi*. One of these however (*B. externespinosus*, Fairm.) I regard as probably a synonym (of *Australiae*, Muls.). One species as noted above (*B. approximans*, Fairm.) being unknown to me, the number to be dealt with in the following tabulation is 16.

- A. Mesosternal carina not prominent in front of the intermediate coxæ;
2nd stria of elytra not nearly reaching the middle of the length of the elytra.
- B. Elytra spinose at apex.
- C. Apical spines of elytra comparatively short.
- D. Puncturation of elytral interstices equal or nearly so.
- E. Puncturation of disc of prothorax comparatively close and striation and seriate punctures of elytra comparatively strong.
- F. Base of the posterior 4 femora black or dark-fuscous.
- G. Head very elongate (size of insect about 4 l.) *gravis*, Blackb.
- GG. Head notably less elongate (size of insect about 3 l.) *Australiae*, Muls.
- FF. Legs entirely clear testaceous *majusculus*, Blackb.
- EE. Puncturation of disc of prothorax notably more sparse, and striation and seriate punctures of elytra evidently finer *decipiens*, Blackb.

- DD. Elytral interstices in front nitid and finely and sparsely punctured, behind opaque with close asperate punctures *macumbensis*, Blackb.
- CC. External spine at apex of elytra very long and slender (much longer than the scutellum) ... *munitipennis*, Blackb.
- BB. Elytra unarmed at apex.
- C. Head testaceous or brown.
- D. Striæ and seriate punctures of elytra strong (about as in *Australia*, Muls.)... *sticticus*, Fairm.
- DD. Striæ and seriate punctures of elytra fine *debilipennis*, Blackb.
- CC. Head black or metallic.
- D. Punctures of disc of prothorax very close (about as in *B. affinis*, Brul.)... *Flindersi*, Blackb.
- DD. Punctures of disc of prothorax evidently less close.
- E. Clypeus extremely closely (almost confluent) punctured ... *discolor*, Blackb.
- EE. Clypeus notably less closely punctured.
- F. Lateral striæ very much narrower than their interstices.
- G. Interstice on either side of the short second stria bears a single row of well-defined punctures ... *stigmaticollis*, Fairm.
- GG. Interstice on either side of the short second stria with confused and faint puncturation ... *auriceps*, Blackb.
- FF. Lateral striæ about same width as their interstices ... *ovipennis*, Fairm.
- AA. Mesosternal carina prominent in front of intermediate coxæ (as in *affinis*, Brul.); second stria of elytra reaching at least to middle of length of elytra.
- B. Punctures of prothorax very coarse (notably more coarse than in *affinis*, Brul.) ... *queenslandicus*, Blackb.
- BB. Punctures of prothorax much less coarse.
- C. Size comparatively large (about 3 l.) .. *duplopunctatus*, Blackb.
- CC. Size very small (at most 2 l.) ... *involutus*, Mael.

B. majusculus, Blackb. In Tr. Roy. Soc. S.A. 1892, p. 207, I expressed a doubt as to whether this species is really distinct from *B. externespinosus*, Fairm., and stated that I was unable to specify any structural characters to separate the two. I had not at the time examined a male of the latter, but having now seen a male I am able to say that *majusculus* is a valid species as the penultimate ventral segment in the male of Fairmaire's insect is even, having no trace of the dentation of outline that is so conspicuous in *B. majusculus*.

B. Australia, Muls. I think *B. externespinosus*, Fairm., may be regarded as identical with this insect. M. Fairmaire says that the latter is very near his species, but differs in the terminal spines of its elytra being of equal size and less widely separated; I can definitely assert, however, that there is quite as much variation as this expression indicates in the terminal spines

of specimens of *Berosus* taken in company and evidently conspecific. In all other respects the description of *Australica* fits M. Fairmaire's insect very well unless it be with regard to the striae 4-6 of the elytra which Mulsant says are "posticelæviares." I take this to mean that the punctures of those striae are less conspicuous than of the others in the hinder part, and certainly this seems to be the case (at any rate from points of view) in several species (including *externespinosus*) although it is not so strongly marked in any species known to me that I should be inclined to attach much importance to it.

B. sticticus, Fairm. I have examples (from Queensland) of a *Berosus* which I refer doubtfully to this species. Their discrepancy with the description consists in the markings of the elytra (which are not constant), since I cannot find that in any of my specimens those markings fall in any distinct manner into the form of a semicircle. Whether or not, however, I am right in my identification *B. sticticus* is rightly placed in the tabulation as all the characters I have relied upon in placing it are characters mentioned in M. Fairmaire's description.

B. debilipennis, sp. nov. Elongato-ovalis; testaceus, capite prothoraceque fusco-adumbratis, elytrorum striis puncturis maculisque nonnullis obsoletis et corpore subtus fuscescentibus; clypeo subtiliter sparsissime capite postice crebrius subfortiter, prothorace sat fortiter nec crebre (hoc antice sat angustato), punctulatis; elytris subtiliter striatis, stria 2^a longe ante medium desinenti, striis subtiliter punctulatis, interstitiis subseriatim (antice quam striae haud magis subtiliter) punctulatis, elytris postice inermibus; mesosterni carina ante coxas intermedias haud prominenti. Long., 2½ l.; lat., 1⅓ l.

My unique example of this insect has unfortunately lost its front tarsi and therefore its sex cannot be determined. Its elytra simple at the apex and its testaceous head, in combination, distinguish it from all the other described Australian *Berosi* except *B. sticticus*, from which it may be at once separated by its larger size, and by the much finer punctulate striae of its elytra (which resemble those of *B. decipiens*, Blackb.). If my identification of *B. sticticus* be right it also differs from that species by its prothorax more narrowed in front.

Tropical Queensland (sent by Mr. Cowley).

B. auriceps, Blackb. In a "N.B." under this heading in Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W. 1889, p. 449, I drew attention to a specimen which I considered a possible var. of *auriceps*. The study of some *Berosi* recently received from Queensland has satisfied me that the specimen in question appertains to a species quite distinct from *auriceps* and which is *B. ovipennis*, Fairm.

B. queenslandicus, sp. nov. Ovatus; minus elongatus; obscure brunneus, capite et prothoracis disco nigris vix viridescentibus, elytris plus minusve piceo-vel nigro-adumbratis, antennis palpis pedibusque dilutioribus; capite prothoraceque æqualiter crebre sat grosse punctulatis; prothorace antice parum angustato; elytris fortiter striatis, stria 2^a longe ultra medium elytrorum continua, striis fortiter (versus latera grosse, sicut interstitia quam puncturæ haud latiora sunt) punctulatis, interstitiis sublævibus, elytris postice inermibus; mesosterni carina ante coxas intermedias prominenti (ut *B. affinis*, Brul.).

I have seen only females of this very distinct species, which is of notably darker colour than any other Australian *Berosus* known to me and is easily recognizable *inter alia* by the very coarse puncturation of its head and prothorax.

Queensland.

HYGROTROPHUS.

I have received from Mr. Lea some specimens which he tells me that he has ascertained by comparison to be *H. involutus*, Macl. I cannot see any ground for regarding them as congeneric with *H. nutans*, Macl., or for separating them from *Berosus*. They seem, however, to be distinct from any other described *Berosus*.

H. DeVisi, sp. nov. Ovalis, sat elongatus; nitidus; supra pubescens; testaceus, capite et prothoracis disco (hoc varie) viridibus vel cupreis, elytris varie plus minusve manifeste fusco-maculatis, corpore subtus plus minusve infuscato; capite prothoraceque (hoc antice leviter angustato) minus crebre minus fortiter punctulatis; elytris crebre subtilius subsquamose punctulatis, vix perspicue striatis vel seriatim punctulatis, postice inermibus; mesosterni carina ante coxas intermedias haud prominenti.

Maris segmento ventrali penultimo simplici. Long., $1\frac{1}{2}$ —2 l.; lat., $\frac{2}{3}$ — $\frac{4}{5}$ l.

Evidently congeneric with *H. nutans*, Macl., but very much smaller, with the head and disc of prothorax metallic-green or coppery.

Queensland; sent by Mr. DeVis, Mr. Cowley, &c.

AMPHIOPS (?)

It is not without hesitation that I refer the following two species to this genus, as I have not seen an authentic type of it. It appears to have been unknown, except by description, to M. Lacordaire. In all important respects, however, the specimens before me agree very well with Erickson's diagnosis,

the only discrepancies being that the scutellum, although of the elongate triangular form described, cannot be called "small," and that the hairs on the intermediate tibiæ are scarcely "long." I have not been able to examine the mandibles, and therefore cannot say whether they are as described. The principal character of *Amphiops* seems to be its having four eyes—two above and two below the head—and this is the case with the insects before me, as the ocular canthus is carried along the exterior margin of the eyes quite widely, thus dividing each eye into two parts. The extreme convexity of these insects is such that (viewed from the side) the height of the elytra is as great as their length.

A. (?) australicus, sp. nov. Breviter ovalis, valde convexus, ad latera compressus; nitidus; niger vel nigro-piceus, antennis palpis corpore subtus pedibusque plus minusve rufescentibus; capite (hoc permagno) crebre dupliciter, prothorace sparsim inæqualiter, elytris fortiter (in disco sparsim confuse, ad latera crebre seriatim) punctulatis; prothorace fortiter transverso, antice fortiter bisinuato, ad latera et ad basin rotundato; elytris nullo modo striatis. Long., $1\frac{4}{5}$ l.; lat. 1 l.

This species looks to a casual glance as if it might very well be congeneric with the species I described as *Volvulus punctatus*, but its eye structure is quite different. In respect of puncturation moreover it is very different especially on the elytra where the punctures are very much coarser. In *punctatus* the elytral punctures are not much less fine than in *Cyclonotum Mastersi*, MacL.

Tropical Australia; Northern Territory (Dr. Bovill; also Mr. J. J. Walker).

A. (?) duplopunctulatus, sp. nov. Breviter ovalis, valde convexus, ad latera compressus; nitidus; niger vel piceus, antennis palpis pedibusque rufescentibus; capite (hoc permagno) crebre dupliciter, prothorace dupliciter vix crebre, elytris dupliciter crebre (puncturis plurimis seriatim dispositis) punctulatis; prothorace fortiter transverso, antice fortiter bisinuato, ad latera et ad basin rotundato; elytris vix manifeste striatis. Long., $1\frac{4}{5}$ l.; lat., 1 l.

Differs from the preceding chiefly in respect of the elytral sculpture. In the present species the whole surface of the elytra is covered with comparatively close fine puncturation with which coarser punctures are thickly intermingled, the coarser punctures having a seriate arrangement (in scarcely defined striæ) on both the discal and lateral parts of the elytra as well as being mixed with the fine punctures all over the interstices. In *A. (?) australicus* the fine puncturation of the elytra is so fine and sparse as to need looking for, and in the sutural region (especially on the front

half of the elytra) the larger punctures also are very sparse and without seriate arrangement.

Queensland; sent by Mr. DeVis.

HYDROCHUS.

The description of the Australian members of this genus are so scattered through the literature of widely separated countries that it seems desirable to furnish some notes showing their relation to each other. I have therefore attempted to place their characters intelligibly in a tabular form, adding some remarks on some of them, and giving a detailed description of a new species. There is, however, one species that I have been unable to identify, viz., *H. obsкуроæneus*, Fairm. I should judge from the description that it is near *H. Horni*, Blackb., but it may be at once distinguished from that insect by its having a fovea in the middle of the head between the eyes as well as by the well-defined sculpture of its prothorax and the implication that the alternate interstices of its elytra are not more elevated than the rest. I have before me a specimen which Mr. Lea tells me that he has ascertained by comparison with the type to be *H. parallelus*, MacL.

- A. General colour dull-brown, pitchy, or obscurely æneous.
- B. Head not trisulcate between the eyes.
- C. Seriate punctures of the elytra so coarse as to leave no continuously defined interstices between some of the rows *Adelaidæ*, Blackb.
- *CC. Interstices between the rows of elytral punctures not obscured by the coarseness of the punctures.
- D. Alternate elytral interstices strongly carinate, in strong contrast to the others *Victoriæ*, Blackb.
- DD. Alternate elytral interstices not, or only feebly, more elevated than the others.
- E. Prothorax at base with four well-defined impressions separated by well-defined ridges *regularis*, Blackb.
- EE. Base of prothorax not having four well-defined impressions.
- F. Clypeus much more nitid and less coarsely punctured than the rest of the head (size comparatively large) *diversiceps*, Blackb.
- FF. Clypeus punctured like the rest of the head (size very small)... *Horni*, Blackb.
- BB. Head distinctly trisulcate between the eyes.

* In *H. Victoriæ* some of the interstices are ill defined, but it is on account of rugulosity of sculpture, the punctures not being particularly large.

- C. Interstices between the rows of elytral punctures all well defined.
- D. The alternate elytral interstices scarcely more elevated than the others (size moderate).
- E. Prothorax narrow and strongly narrowed at base ... *parallelus*, Blackb.
- EE. Prothorax wider, subquadrate, not much narrowed at base ... *australis*, Motsch.
- DD. The alternate elytral interstices conspicuously elevated (size very small) *interioris*, Blackb.
- CC. Seriate punctures of elytra so coarse as to leave no continuously defined interstices between some of the rows ... *Palmerstoni*, Blackb.
- AA. General colour bright-grass-green, with the legs yellow ... *laeteviridis*, Blackb.

H. diversiceps, sp. nov. Elongatus; brunneus, obscure cupreus, clypeo suturaque viridescens, genibus tarsisque minus piceo-notatis; clypeo subtiliter punctulato; capite postice indeterminate inæquali, rugulose punctulato; prothorace leviter transverso, postice sat angustato, indeterminate inæquali, sat grosse subrugulose punctulato, lateribus leviter sinuatis minus arcuatis; elytris suturam lateraque versus striatis, seriatim punctulatis (serierum subsuturalium puncturis quam ceterarum minoribus), interstitiis internis vix (externis manifeste) elevatis. Long., $1\frac{3}{4}$ l.; lat., $\frac{3}{5}$ l.

On each elytron the punctures of the two rows nearest to the suture are in indistinct striæ, and are smaller than the punctures of the other rows. The next two rows of punctures do not run in striæ; but the rest of the rows are in striæ. The seriate punctures (except those of the subsutural series) are about the same size as those of the European *H. angustatus*, Müll., and are larger than those of *H. parallelus*, MacL., and smaller than those of *H. Adelaidæ*, Blackb. The external interstices, beginning with that between the fourth and fifth rows of punctures, are somewhat elevated, especially near the apex.

Queensland; sent by Mr. DeVis.

H. interioris, Blackb. In re-studying this insect for the purpose of tabulation, I find with regret that the type was covered with some kind of exudation (probably the normal condition of the insect), which I overlooked; and the exudation now having, with considerable difficulty and some damage to the specimen, been removed, it appears that my description (Report of the Horn Expedition, II., p. 260) erred in respect of the sculpture, for the head, instead of being as I called it "æqualis," is trisulcate between the eyes, and the elytra should be described as "having all the alternate interstices a little more elevated than the rest, especially the fifth behind and the ninth in the middle," instead of (as is implied in my description) "only the fifth behind and the ninth in the middle more elevated than the rest."

OCHTHEBIUS.

O. brisbanensis, sp. nov. Minus latus; minus nitidus; piceo-niger, vix ænescens, pedibus antennisque rufescentibus; capite prothoraceque valde inæqualibus, vix perspicue punctulatis; hoc transversim quadrato (in disco sulco longitudinali mediano, sulco oblique in parte postica utrinque posita, et utrinque fovea antica, impresso), parte explanata laterali quam disci dimidium vix angustiori, lateribus fere rectis; elytris minus perspicue striatis, seriatim sat fortiter punctulatis, interstitiis sat planis, sutura elevata. Long., $\frac{4}{5}$ l.; lat., $\frac{2}{5}$ l. (vix).

The previously described Australian *Ochthebii* are *australis*, Blackb., and *novicius*, Blackb. The latter is a much larger species of considerably wider form. The former is of about the same size as the present insect, but more nitid, of a reddish-piceous colour and of somewhat wider build. Moreover the sculpture of its head is entirely different. Looked at obliquely from the front the head (excluding the clypeus) in *australis* is seen as divided into 5 elevations (2 ridges on either side placed one behind the other and a central tubercle); while the corresponding piece in the present species from the same point of view is seen as an area bearing a large deep fovea on either side of the middle the space between the foveæ being comparatively narrow and elevated like an obtuse ridge.

Queensland; near Brisbane; sent by Mr. DeVis.

HYDRÆNA.

H. evanescens, sp. nov. Ovalis; subnitida; obscure rufo-brunnea, capite nigricanti, prothoracis lateribus (nonnullorum exemplorum) pedibusque testaceis; capite vix perspicue, prothorace crebrius subtiliter, elytris subtiliter seriatim, punctulatis; prothorace leviter transverso, antice parum angustato, basin versus transversim (et prope angulum anticum subrotundatim) impresso; elytris postice obtusis, subtiliter seriatim punctulatis. Long., $\frac{3}{5}$ l.; lat., $\frac{1}{4}$ l.

This pigmy is distinguished from all the other described Australian *Hydrænæ* by its minute size. From *Torrensi*, Blackb., and *acutipennis*, Fairm., it also differs by its elytra being blunt at the apex; and from *luridipennis*, Macl., and *simplicicollis*, Blackb., by the much finer puncturation of its prothorax.

Queensland; sent by Mr. DeVis.

CYCLONOTUM.

C. Cowleyi, sp. nov. Late ovale; minus convexum; modice nitidum; rufum, elytris piceo-nigris; supra æqualiter confertim subtiliter punctulatum, sed elytris puncturis minus

subtilibus seriatim impressis; prothorace quam longiori ut $2\frac{1}{2}$ ad 1 latiori, antice angustato, margine antico fortiter bisinuato; elytris haud striatis, stria subsuturali etiam carenti. Long., 3 l.; lat., $1\frac{4}{5}$ l.

This species is very much more finely and closely punctulate than *C. Mastersi*, MacI. The absence of a subsutural elytral stria distinguishes it from all the other described Australian *Cyclonota*.

Queensland (Cairns); sent by Mr. Cowley.

NOTOCERCYON (gen. nov. *Sphærididarum*).

Palpi labiales breves; palpi maxillares modici, articulis 2° dilatato, 3° 4° que gracilibus inter se sat æqualibus; labrum vix perspicuum; oculi modici; antennæ ut *Cercyonis*; scutellum modicum triangulare; elytra pedesque ut *Cercyonis*; prosternum ut *Cercyonis*; mesosternum sat late lanciforme planum; corpus supra parce pubescens.

This genus differs from *Cercyon* chiefly by the form of the mesosternum which is flat as in *Megasternum*, though not quite so wide as in that genus and much longer. It differs from *Megasternum* in having the prosternum and tibiæ as in *Cercyon*.

N. ornatum, sp. nov. Ovale, postice acuminatum; convexum; parce pubescens; rufobrunneum, prothorace rufo, elytris testaceis (striis nigris, interstitiis interrupte nigro-maculatis, maculis fascias duas indeterminatas formantibus), antennarum clava nigra; capite prothoraceque subtiliter sat sparsim punctulatis; hoc fortiter transverso; elytris fortiter striatis, striis minus perspicue punctulatis, interstitiis subtiliter punctulatis (puncturis singulis capillas singulas ferentibus) convexis; metasterni mesosternique parte mediana planata sparsim punctulata. Long., $\frac{4}{5}$ l.; lat., $\frac{3}{10}$ l.

I met with two specimens of this insect, which are similarly coloured. The species differs from the following in its form acuminate behind, the evidently finer and sparser puncturation of its prothorax, and the much less close puncturation of the flattened surface of its meta- and mesosterna.

Victoria; Black Spur.

N. (Cercyon) dorsale, Er. I met with several specimens near Hobart of an insect which agrees very well with Erichson's description of this species, and I have it also from several localities in the Victorian Mountains. It is evidently congeneric with the species for which I have proposed the generic name *Notocercyon*. In colouring it presents considerable variety, the typical form (with which one of my Tasmanian examples agrees), has the piceous colour on the elytra in the form of a common

triangle with its base on the base of the elytra, but in most examples the piceous colour is more extended (leaving only the hinder part of the lateral margins and the apex testaceous) till in one of my Victorian specimens the whole elytra are of dark colour with only the apex somewhat lighter than the general surface. The most marked character distinguishing this species from the preceding consists in the close puncturation of the flattened portion of its sterna.

CERCYON.

Up to the present time two genuine species of *Cercyon* have been recorded as Australian, viz., *C. fossus*, Blackb., and (the doubtless imported) *C. flavipes*, Fab. I have now to record the following :—

C. quisquilius, Linn. I have an example of a *Cercyon* (taken to the best of my recollection near Melbourne) which seems to me to be this species. Compared with the specimen in my European collection the elytral interstices certainly seem to be a little less finely punctulate, but I can find no other difference, and have little doubt the insect has been imported into Australia.

PSEUDOHYDROBIUS (gen. nov. *Palpicornium*).

Palpi labiales breves graciles, articulo ultimo ovali quam præcedens sublongiori; palpi maxillares minus elongati, quam capitis (inter oculos) latitudo vix longiores, articulis ultimis 2 longitudine sat æqualibus; mentum quadratum; labrum brevissimum sub clypeo fere abditum; caput sat parvum; oculi modici quam *Hydrobii* minus leviter granulati; antennæ 9-articulatæ, quam palpi maxillares sesquilogiores, articulis 1° quam 11^{us} sublongiori subcylindrico, 2° quam 1^{us} triplo breviori, 3-6 gracilibus gradatim brevioribus (his conjunctis quam 1^{us} 2^{us} que conjuncti vix brevioribus), 7-9 clavam formantibus (7° 8° que inter se æqualibus, his conjunctis quam 11^{us} paullo longioribus); prothorax transversus; scutellum modicum; elytra ovalia; pedes modici sat graciles; femora compressa; tibiæ breviter ciliatæ; tarsi modice elongati, articulis 1° perbrevis, 2° 5° que elongatis inter se æqualibus; unguiculi simplices; mesosternum æquale (*i.e.*, nec carinatum nec tuberculatum); corpus glabrum.

This genus is certainly, I think, allied to *Cyclonotum*, but it has the tarsi of *Hydrobius*, nine-jointed antennæ, and the mesosternum non-carinate. Its habits, moreover, associate it with *Cyclonotum* rather than with the true *Hydrophilides*. Probably M. Lacordaire would have treated it as a distinct tribe of *Palpicornes*.

P. floricola, sp. nov. Sat late ovalis; sat convexus; nitidus; supra brunneo-testaceus, capite prothoraceque in disco, et elytris præsertim latera versus, varie infuscatis; corpore subtus pedibusque rufo-brunneis; capite crebre minus subtiliter, prothorace minus crebre magis subtiliter, elytris (striis neglectis) fere ut caput sed minus crebre, punctulatis; elytris striatis, striarum (his apicem versus multo magis fortiter impressis) puncturis quam interstitiorum sat majoribus. Long., $2\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{4}{5}$ l.; lat., $1\frac{3}{5}$ l.

Victoria; on flowers near Fernshaw (Black Spur).

PHYTOPHAGA.

I have recently sent examples of a considerable number of the *Phytophaga* that I have described to the eminent specialist Mr. M. Jacoby, of the London Entomological Society, with the request that he would favour me with information regarding any of my determinations that he might consider incorrect. He has courteously responded to this request and has pointed out the following errors (which it seems desirable to place on record) in my work.

TERILLUS.

T. micans, Blackb. Mr. Jacoby informs me that this species is identical with *Alittus foveolatus*, Chp., and adds the information that he also regarded it as a *Terillus* and that it is the species he described as *T. porosus*. I have no doubt Mr. Jacoby has conclusive reasons for this determination (probably he has seen Chapuis' type) but it should be noted that Chapuis in his tabulation of the *Iphimeites* indicates as a leading character of *Alittus* that the lateral margins of the pronotum are perfectly straight ("tout à fait droits") which they are most emphatically not in this insect, and in the specific description says that the tibiæ are the same colour "*flavo ferruginæ*" as the antennæ which they are not in any of the somewhat numerous specimens that I have seen of this insect. No doubt Dr. Chapuis incorrectly described his insect.

HALTICODES.

This genus (characterised by me Tr. Roy. Soc., S.A., 1896, p. 69 Mr. Jacoby says does not appear to him to differ from *Lactica* Dr. Chapuis gives as one of the main distinctions of the *Lacticites* the presence of a deep transversal prothoracic furrow "*limité de chaque côté*." In *Halticodes* the prothoracic furrow terminates laterally by arching round to the base; whereas I understood the expression "*limité de chaque côté*" to indicate that the transversal furrow is cut off on either side by a longitudinal furrow at right angles to it (as in *Crepidodera*). I presume however that this is not the case, and in that event I do not know

any character on which *Halticodes* should be excluded from the *Lacticites*—or separated from *Lactica*. My *H. disparipes* is very distinct specifically from the only other *Lactica* yet described as Australian (*L. australis*, Duviv.).

AULACOPHORA.

A. Palmerstoni, Blackb. Mr. Jacoby informs me that this is not distinct from *A. abdominalis*, Fab.

MONOLEPTA.

M. alpina, Blackb. Mr. Jacoby states that this is identical with *M. minima*, Allard, which is, I think, the only *Galerucid* hitherto attributed to Australia of which I have not been able to see the description.

